GHOST RIDER

MOTORCYCLE STUNTMAN JOHNNY BLAZE HAS ALWAYS HAD HIS HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE... AND MADE ALL THE WRONG DECISIONS. A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL CURSED HIM INTO BECOMING THE GHOST RIDER. A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE WHO HUNTS DOWN THE GUILTY AND DISPENSES BLOODY RETRIBUTION.

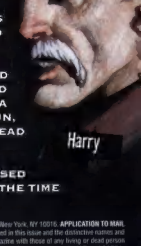
NOW HE'S GONE AND DONE IT AGAIN.

TRAPPED IN HELL AFTER BEING MANIPULATED BY ANGELS AND DEMONS ALIKE, JOHNNY MADE A BARGAIN TO ESCAPE AND INADVERTENTLY FREED LUCIFER, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

DURING THE PASSAGE TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD, LUCIFER'S BODY SCATTERED INTO 666 PIECES, EACH OF WHICH POSSESSED A RECENTLY DECEASED CORPSE. EACH POSSESSED VICTIM ALLOWS LUCIFER TO WREAK HAVOC ACROSS THE GLOBE SIMULTANEOUSLY—TO KILL, TO MAIM, TO TORTURE.

IT HAS BEEN THE GHOST RIDER'S MISSION TO HUNT DOWN AND DESTROY EVERY LAST VESTIGE OF LUCIFER. AND THAT PURPOSE HAS BROUGHT HIM TO SLEEPY HOLLOW, ILLINOIS, WHERE THINGS HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE COMPLICATED.

WHEN A HEADLESS TEENAGER WAS FOUND ON THE TOWN'S OUTSKIRTS, SHERIFF HARRY O'CONNOR BRUTALLY INTERROGATED THE DRIFTING JOHNNY BLAZE ON SUSPICION OF MURDER. JOHNNY HELD BACK THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BEFORE IT FLARED UP AND KNOCKED OUT THE SHERIFF.



HARRY LATER AWOKE IN A HOSPITAL BED AND LEARNED THAT MORE CHILDREN HAD DIED AT THE HANDS OF A MONSTER WITH A FLAMING HEAD. STRAPPING ON HIS HANDGUN, HE SET OUT TO BRING IN THE GHOST RIDER, DEAD OR ALIVE.

AND MEANWHILE, THE PREVIOUSLY DECEASED SUPER-VILLAIN, JACK O'LANTERN, IS HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE...

GHOST RIDER No. 9, May. 2007 Published monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. **APPLICATION TO MAIL PERIODICAL POSTAGE RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.75 in Canada (GST #R 127032852); all top direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #40041077. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $37.99; Canada $57.00; Foreign $39.00. **POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO GHOST RIDER, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1110 NEWBURGH, NY 12550. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158, FAX # (845) 457-5029. subscription@marvelcube.com.** ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAN BUCKLEY, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; JIM KOCH, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JEFFREY LIENDO, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Malinconi, Advertising Director, at jmalinconi@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800 217-9158.

MAN, ARE YOU *SURE* YOUR DAD WON'T--?
STOP *WORRYIN'* ABOUT IT, OKAY? HE WORKED A *DOUBLE* TODAY--*NO WAY* HE'S WAKIN' UP BEFORE HIS ALARM CLOCK GOES OFF AT *SIX*.
SINGLE LANE BRIDGE
YEAH, BUT...WHAT ARE WE *DOIN'*, MAN?
WE'RE OUT AFTER *CURFEW*, MAN!
WE'RE BREAKIN' THE LAW!
BREAKIN' THE LAW! BREAKIN' THE LAW!
BRNT-RRRRRR!
OH, *CRAP*...
WE GOTTA *HIDE*, MAN!
CAR'S COMIN'!

DUDE--- RELAX!
WHATEVER, MAN! I'M NOT GETTIN' BUSTED FOR BEIN' OUT AFTER CURFEW!
IT'S NOT A COP CAR, MAN--- IT'S NOT A CAR AT ALL!
THERE'S ONLY ONE HEADLIGHT, OKAY? IT'S A MOTORCYCLE. WE'RE FINE.
OH. OKAY.
DUDE...?
YEAH...
THAT'S UH...THAT'S NOT...

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Illinois

PART 2

DANIEL WAY
WRITER

JAVIER SALTARES
BREAKDOWNS

MARK TEXEIRA
FINISHES

DAN BROWN
COLORS

VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERS

MICHAEL O'CONNOR
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
SUPERVISING EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

WE GOTTA JUMP, DONNIE!
WHAT?!
JUMP!

PPT!
DONNIE?
DONNIE, WHERE ARE--!
PLOOSH!
C'MON, MAN!
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

UNGH--!
THIS'D BE A LOT EASIER IF YOU'D HELP, D--
AAWP--!
OH, SH%$!
YOU'RE BLEEDIN', MAN! ARE YOU--?

K-CHINK!
CHAKK!
WE'LL TALK AGAIN, KID.
SOON.

HEY!
WHOOOOFFHH!
I WAS KINDA BUSY BACK THERE, Y'KNOW!

VRRRROOOMM!
SPAK!
SPAK!
SPAK!
SPAK!

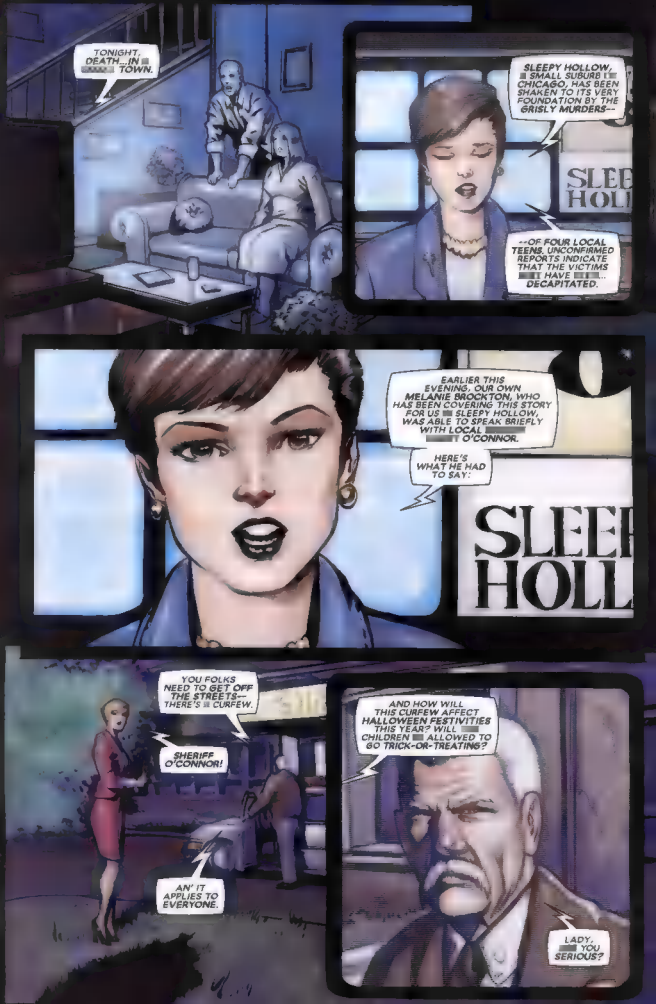
HONK!
HONNNNNK!
KRRR

QUICKLY.

YOUR SLAUGHTER OF THESE PEOPLE ENDS TONIGHT...
...LUCIFER.
RECOGNIZED ME IN MY--UNNH!--NEW COSTUME, HUH?
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
IT'S ONLY SPORTING TO TELL YOU...IT CAME WITH SOME...
...SPECIAL OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT.
LIKE HIGH-IMPACT BODY ARMOR.
AND THIS COOL WRIST-BLASTER, TOO.
CHECK IT OUT!

KRRRAK-KOOM!!
DEVIL...
INEVITABLE?
YEAH... DUH.
DO YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?

KRANNNGGG--!
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER!
LATER ON, BONEHEAD!
"BONEHEAD", HEH-HEH...THAT IS AWESOME!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA SOUND CORNY BUT...
WELL, MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT'S SO AWESOME...


TONIGHT, DEATH...IN TOWN.
SLEEPY HOLLOW, SMALL SUBURB OF CHICAGO, HAS BEEN SHAKEN TO ITS VERY FOUNDATION BY THE GRISLY MURDERS--
--OF FOUR LOCAL TEENS. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN DECAPITATED.
EARLIER THIS EVENING, OUR OWN MELANIE BROCKTON, WHO HAS BEEN COVERING THIS STORY FOR US IN SLEEPY HOLLOW, WAS ABLE TO SPEAK BRIEFLY WITH LOCAL O'CONNOR.
HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:
YOU FOLKS NEED TO GET OFF THE STREETS-- THERE'S A CURFEW.
SHERIFF O'CONNOR!
AN' IT APPLIES TO EVERYONE.
AND HOW WILL THIS CURFEW AFFECT HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES THIS YEAR? WILL CHILDREN BE ALLOWED TO GO TRICK-OR-TREATING?
LADY, YOU SERIOUS?

"THERE'S A KILLER OUT ON OUR STREETS, PREYING ON CHILDREN--UNTIL THIS GUY IS CAUGHT, THE CURFEW STANDS.
"AND IF I CATCH ANYBODY OUT ON THE STREETS AFTER CURFEW...
"...YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE THEY'LL FACE SOME SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."
BAKLUMP!

KRRSSSSSSSHHH!
SHERIFF
VVVRRRRRRRROOOOOMMMMM!
KKRRRULNNNCHHH!

I LOVE THIS TOWN!
I MEAN, "SLEEPY HOLLOW"...
...HOW PERFECT IS THAT?
AND IT'S THE BEST TIME OF YEAR, TOO-- HALLOWEEN.
I...
...AM GOING TO GO TRICK-OR-TREATING.
WHO WANTS TO GO WITH ME?

GHOST WRITERS

Raise your hand if you loved this issue!

The fun continues next month when "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Illinois part 3" serves up more heaping helpings of headless hijinks! And feasting on those tasty portions will be a gluttonous gaggle of flesh-eating zombies! Thank goodness old Flamehead doesn't have any skin to get chewed off!

You know, all this talk of eating is starting to get me a little hungry... for fan letters, I mean. So gather around the fires cast by GR's flaming head and warm up to the best letters of the month!

Dear Ghost Writers,

When I found out you were bringing the Flamehead back, I had to pull all my resources together to make a two-year subscription. And being in prison means working for pennies or no pay at all.

I've been a fan of the Ghost Rider since I was twelve years old. I never got to experience the Johnny Blaze years, though. That is why it's so awesome you've brought him back. I'm loving the new series and the story about the 666 Lucifers running loose is great. What makes Ghost Rider so cool is that he's a tragic hero. And the damned-if-you-do and damned-if-you-don't concept says it best.

I've got a few questions:

1) What is the difference between your Marvel Knights line and the regular line of Marvel books? What I have read of MK titles is no more violent or risqué than the regular Marvel U books.

2) Why is there no Ghost Rider tie-in with Civil War running amok?

3) Who is Lucifer again? I thought that was the alien who broke Xavier's back.

4) During the Danny Ketch years, I remember him burning people with his gaze... or was I just tripping?

5) Will there ever be a Ghost Rider vs. Spawn crossover? I would really like to know the outcome of that fight.

Well, that's about it. Keep up the good work and your art will continue to inspire prison tattoo artists for years to come.

Oh, and try to keep Ghost Rider in the dark of night. A flaming skull in the daylight is just not as impressive.

Phouvieng Keosouphe
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison
Blythe, CA

Thanks for the e-mail and for serving your penance with the Ghost Rider, Phouvieng! Now, about those questions:

1) Well, you're right. Although the MK titles started in a very different place and really focused exclusively on Marvel's grittier characters, the imprint line eventually got so "mainstream" that it lost its identity. Nowadays, Marvel Knights titles are special limited series helmed by our finest talent. The aim is to tell definitive stories of your favorite characters, usually outside the boundaries of continuity. For instance, Kaare Andrews' *Spider-Man Reign*, or the upcoming *Silver Surfer Requiem* by J. Michael Straczynski and painter Esad Ribic.

2) A Ghost Rider tie-in to Civil War? You're looking at it right now, my friend! While GR won't be "choosing sides," he's got his hands full with the possessed body of a CW casualty, Jack O'Lantern.

3) Who-huh? Lucifer is the angel who God kicked out of heaven. Ya know, the Devil. Check out The Holy Bible for his back-story.

4) Are you referring to the Penance Stare? If so, check out GR #3 and #4, where Dr. Strange got an eyeful.

5) Never say never, but I don't think it will be anytime soon.

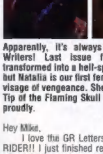
Dear Ghost Writers,

Hi. My name is Natalia and I am Ghost Rider's #1 fan girl. Yeah, that's right: GIRL. I fell in love with the Flamehead at the age of eleven and have been collecting ever since... and I'm twenty-two now!

This past October, I decided to do a full-body dedication to my favorite man. It's a handmade costume which will definitely be worn for the midnight showing of the new movie.

I wanted to take this time to share my dedication and thank you for bringing back the comic that has brought me so much joy when I was younger. You are keeping the Ghost Rider tradition alive and strong for the new generations.

Sincerely,
Natalia Crema
Campbell, CA



Apparently, it's always Halloween at Ghost Writers! Last issue featured another fan transformed into a hell-spawned skeleton biker, but Natalia is our first female biker to adopt the visage of vengeance. She's earned this month's Tip of the Flaming Skull for bearing her chains proudly.

Hey Mike,

I love the GR Letters page! I LOVE GHOST RIDER!! I just finished reading the GR *Spotlight* - Daniel Way, Javier and Tex are the coolest guys, really nice people. GR is in the best hands.

Oh, and the stunt at the end of *Mythos* was insane!! The Corben run was absolute genius... he is brilliant, soooo good! And I can't wait to see Ghosty smack the hell out of Jack O'Lantern...or is that smack Lucifer out of him?!

Nick Temelkovski,
Melbourne, Australia

That's a lot of love for the Rider, Nick. And you're quite right about Dan, Jarv, and Tex—they're great guys and if you Flameheads get the chance to meet them at a comic book convention, don't miss out! Oh, and remind them that they owe me money.

Dear Ghost Writers,

Ooohh YEAH!!! Thanks to my local shop, I was able to get my obsessing hands on a preview copy of *Ghost Rider* #94...and... I loved IT!! Okay, so I did love it, I've been waiting forever, and I think I get it. I think. Ghost Rider had a happy ending: literally, the demon had a happy ending. And Blaze, who was originally Ghost Rider, well, he had a happy ending too...but Danny, wow! I could not believe his fate!! WHY!?! The last page was so powerful, it truly encompassed the entire journey we took with Ketch, from start to finish, and in the end, he's single, heartbroken, screwed, and he doesn't even know it! As the reader, I could only imagine his joy being crushed as he opened Stacy's letter.

At any rate, I'm loving the new story, and TEX will always sit as the greatest Ghost Rider artist ever! Keep it going, and from *Marvel Spotlight* #5 to forever, I will always remain not the 'greatest' GR fan, but one of the many who has stood behind our boy for richer or poorer, and then some!

Thanks again, and I'll see you all in theatres on the 16th!! Valentine's Day is on the 14th, and my wife's birthday is the 20th, so you KNOW how we're celebrating!! Happy Birthday, Heather! Thank you Marvel, and keep flaming!!

Adam Brewer

Yeah, Danny got the short end of the chain, didn't he? Oh well, Johnny's luck didn't last very long either. That's the curse of the Ghost Rider for you!

Hey Ghost Rider staff,

Greetings, fellow Flameheads! Many thanks to the GR team for bringing my favorite character back in circulation. Reading this new incarnation of the Spirit of Vengeance me all fired up, so kudos to Daniel Way for the great concept (I dig Lucifer's sarcasm), and to Jarv and Tex for the awesome artwork!

By the way, my birthday is fast approaching (on Feb. 24, I turn 22), and I would say that this is really my month and GR's too, because it marks the release of the *GR Finale* to complete my Ketch series, *Ghosty's own Marvel Spotlight*, the 8th issue of the ongoing, which features the most wicked cover art so far, and of course, the movie! Just a comment: step a notch down on that duality thing (as seen in *GR #7*), will you? Also, the idea of the Devil and God bargaining for one's soul is kinda cliché, and it grosses me out...

It seems that only Filipinos love Ghost Rider here in Asia, oh well... To paraphrase Lucifer, you guys rock! You bring the thunder and spectacle, y'know? So keep it up!

Ryan Caesar A. Arevalo
Tondo, Manila, Philippines

Only Filipinos love Ghost Rider? How is that possible? I thought EVERYONE loved Ghost Rider!

Ghost Writers,

As a fan, I feel I must give back when you guys deliver us the sweetness that is Ghost Rider. So I'm giving back the only way I know how... with fan art!

John "Freeze" McDonough

It's just what I wanted, John! Thanks for gracing us with your awesome GR art again. And to all the other fans out there with cool GR art, photos, and collections to showcase, don't forget to send it to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!

Until next month, keep the flames burning bright!

--Michael

ADAM ROSENLUND
SPECIAL THANKS

MICHAEL O'CONNOR
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
SUPERVISING EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

MARVEL KNIGHTS C/O MARVEL COMICS
417 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10016
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

E-MAIL:
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
MARK E-MAIL

GHOST RIDER
NEXT ISSUE:
MARVEL ZOMBIE SPOTLIGHT #5?!

Edits by DROBOROS

KRYPTONIA - DCP